

CLAIM AMENDMENTS ---

In the Claims: Claim 10 has been added to replace now-cancelled claim 1 as there is some question as to the words of claim 1, and the claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 10.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A product comprising a strain with at least the characteristics according to claim 10b and 10d 4.
3. (Original) The product of claim 2 wherein the product is formulated as a food containing cells of the selected strain.
4. (Original) The product of claim 2 wherein the product is formulated as a tablet containing cells of the selected strain.
5. (Original) The product of claim 2 wherein the product is formulated as a dietary supplement containing cells of the selected strain.
6. (Original) The product of claim 2 wherein the product is formulated as a confectionery containing cells of the selected strain.
7. (Previously submitted) The product of claim 2 wherein the product is formulated as an oral drug containing cells of the selected strain for improving the immune-function of a patient.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Withdrawn) A method for improving immune-function in mammals using *Lactobacillus reuteri* strains in products containing cells of such strains, comprising: using strains that
 - a. exhibit good toxin binding and neutralizing effect;
 - b. and exhibit good CD4+ cell recruitment.
10. (New) A method of producing a product for improving immune-function in mammals, comprising:
 - a. selecting and culturing a strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri*,
 - b. evaluating the cytotoxic activity of a substance derived from culturing the strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri*, the substance selected from the group

consisting of cells of the strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* and a supernatant obtained from growing the strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* in suitable host cells, wherein a good toxin binding and neutralizing effect identifies a strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* for further testing,

- c. providing cells of the identified strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* of step b. to a test mammal,
- d. evaluating the immunomodulating activity of the identified strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* of step b. in samples from the test mammal, wherein strain capability of increasing the number of CD4+ lymphocytes in the samples identifies a strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* for use in the composition, and
- e. formulating the product to contain cells of the strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* identified in step d.